

APPLICANT(S): Shahar Atir
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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant asserts that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Claims 12-17 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-11 have been rejected. Claim 1, 2, 5, 6, 10 and 11 have been amended.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

Remarks to the Abstract

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract because the phrase "*There is provided in accordance...neighbor effect in reading data...*" does not comply with MPEP 608.01 (b). The abstract has been replaced.

Drawings Rejections

The drawings have been objected to because allegedly they do not show features claimed in claims 5-6 and 10-11. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, because the features recited in claims 5-6 and 10-11 pertain to method steps, which do not need to be specifically shown in a block diagram figure.

Examiner objected to the drawings because they allegedly do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Applicant respectfully notes that all the pending

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claims are method claims, and all the limitations of method claims are steps and not structures. All the steps of the pending claims are fully supported by the description of fig. 5 in paragraph [0044] of the Specification.

Applicant respectfully submits that because only methods are recited in the claims, there is no requirement for a drawing representing the sense amplifier (a well known NVM sensing circuit) itself to be shown. The specification is very clear that the claimed method could comprise in a certain embodiment “...*coupling a sense amplifier to a first source/drain terminal of each cell of the adjacent memory cells*...”. Thus, representations in the drawings showing the actual connection or switching of a sense amplified into a sensing path of one or more NVM cells are neither practical nor required.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5-6, 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because allegedly they fail to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner rejected the phrase “*said coupling a sense amplifier to...comprising*” in claims 5-6 and 10-11 for lacking antecedent basis in the claim.

The claims have been amended to correct for this error.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-8, 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,807,188 (Casagrande).

In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,992,980 (Park et al.).

Claim 1, as amended for clarification purposes, recites in part:

..sensing **substantially simultaneously** a state of adjacent memory cells **through at least a partially shared sensing path.**

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This recited limitation is neither shown, nor suggest in the cited references. As is well established, in order to successfully assert a prima facie case of anticipation, there must be shown a single prior art document that includes every element and limitation of the claim or claims being rejected. Applicant respectfully asserts that a prima facie case of anticipation has not apply to claim 1, as the cited references neither teaches nor suggests every element and limitation of claim 1.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 1. Applicants, further respectfully asserts the claim 1 and all the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Park in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,975,536 (Maayan et al).

Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 9 is allowable by virtue of its dependence on an allowable base claim.

Applicant notes that none of the amendments to the claims herein are in response to the above discussed prior art rejections.

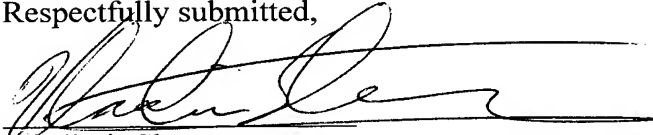
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the pending claims are considered to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

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Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vladimir Sherman', written over a horizontal line.

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